

*See copy of Memorandum*

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# REPORT

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health*

FOR THE

Rural District of Norman Cross,

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF  
HUNTINGDON,

*For the Year ending December 31st, 1902,*

BY

JOHN A. ROBERTSON, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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*Presented to the Rural District Council at their  
Meeting held on the 14th of February, 1903.*

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TO  
THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF  
NORMAN CROSS.

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GENTLEMEN,

The most satisfactory Report it has been my honour to present to you, since becoming your Medical Officer of Health, I now submit to you.

*Death Rate* (see Table I.)

Total Deaths, 113. Population, 1901 Census, 10,164. Deaths per 1,000, 11·1.

There is a considerable reduction in the total number of Deaths, and in the number of Notifiable Diseases from that of last year—22 fewer Deaths and 9 fewer Notifications.

*Birth Rate* (see Table I.)

Total Births 316, equal to 31·09 per 1,000.

*Infantile Mortality*.—35 died under the age of 1 year, being 110·7 per 1,000 of the Births.

It is highly interesting to observe that the diminution in death rate is due greatly to improvement in Infantile Mortality.

The Infantile death rate this year is 110, while last year it was 146 per 1,000. The average for England and Wales, from 1896 to 1900, was 156 per 1,000.

Should the usual rule amongst Sanitarians be a true criterion of the sanitation of a District, then is your Board to be highly congratulated at the immediate successful effects of their new Sewage Works, because the diminution in the Infantile death rôle is only in the Sub-District under the influence of the new Drainage system.

You may observe that, although the number of deaths under one year is about the same in Yaxley and Stilton as last year, in the Fletton Sub-District the number is reduced from 33 last year to 19 this year.

A similar remarkable and interesting diminution in the general death rôle in Fletton Sub-District is observable to even a greater extent. While other Sub-Districts remain about the same as last year, Fletton has improved from 81 to 59. This is a most gratifying beginning to the beneficial effects of your Sewage Works, and is powerful evidence in justification of the money expended on these works.

From Birth up to 5 years of age, 45 children died.

The causes of Death in these 45 children, under 5 years, were as follows :—

Diarrhœa caused death in ...	...	3 cases.
Diphtheria and		
Membranous	„ ...	2 „
Croup		
Tuberculosis	„ ...	2 „
Bronchitis	„ ...	9 „
Pneumonia	„ ...	10 „
Premature Birth	„ ...	17 „
Nervous Diseases	„ ...	1 „
Other Causes	„ ...	1 „
		<hr/>
Total	... ..	45
		<hr/>



As in last year only 2 cases were due to Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

TABLE II. shews :—

1. Population.
2. Births Registered,
3. Deaths at all ages.
4. Deaths under 1 year.

This Table is again arranged in accordance with the new Division of the District by the Guardians (and approved of by the Local Government Board) into 3 Medical Relief Districts (Sub-Districts), viz. :—

FLETTON, YAXLEY, AND STILTON.

*Fletton* Sub-District, embracing the Parishes of Woodstone Rural, Fletton Rural, part of Stanground, and Orton Longueville, Orton Waterville, Alwalton, Chesterton, and Waternewton.

*Yaxley* Sub-District, embracing Farcet and Yaxley.

*Stilton* Sub-District, embracing Haddon, Denton, Morborne, Folksworth, Washingley, Caldecot, Glatton, Holme, and Stilton.

*Population* (Census 1901)—

Of Fletton Sub-District	...	...	5,564
„ Yaxley	„	...	2,755
„ Stilton	„	...	1,845
			<hr/> 10,164 <hr/>

*Births*—

In Fletton Sub-District	...	...	181
„ Yaxley	„	...	88
„ Stilton	„	...	47
			<hr/> 316 <hr/>

*Deaths—*

In Fletton Sub-District	...	...	59
„ Yaxley	„	...	28
„ Stilton	„	...	26
			<hr/>
			113
			<hr/>

*Deaths under 1 year—*

In Fletton Sub-District	...	...	19
„ Yaxley	„	...	8
„ Stilton	„	...	8
			<hr/>
			35
			<hr/>

## TABLE III.

Refers to Notifiable Infectious Diseases. The total number was 44, made up as follows :—

Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	10
Erysipelas	...	...	...	10
Scarlatina	...	...	...	22
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				44
				<hr/>

*Localities of Outbreak.*

Fletton Sub-District 23.	Waternewton	...	2
	Woodstone	...	6
	Fletton	...	9
	Stanground	...	5
	Orton Waterville	...	0
	Alwalton	...	1

Yaxley	Sub-District	{	Yaxley	...	...	9
	14.		Farcet	...	...	5
Stilton	Sub-District	{	Stilton	...	...	0
			Holme	...	...	2
			Folksworth	...	...	1
			Washingley	...	...	2
			Glatton	...	...	2
						<hr/>
Total						44

TABLE IV.

This Table refers to the causes of and ages at death.  
Also to Deaths in localities at all ages.

*Causes—*

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	3
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	9
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer and Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	12
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	14
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	12
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	4
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	17
Accident at Parturition	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	3
Accidents	...	...	...	...	4
Nervous Diseases	...	...	...	...	8
Senile Decay	...	...	...	...	10
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	11

*Ages at Death—*

Deaths occurring under 1 year	...	...	35
„ „ from 1 to 5 years			10
„ „ „ 5 to 15 „	...		2
„ „ „ 15 to 25 „			3
„ „ „ 25 to 65 „	...		30
„ „ „ 65 years onwards			33
			<hr/> 113 <hr/>

*Localities—*

Fletton Sub-District	...	...	...	59
Yaxley „	...	...	...	28
Stilton „	...	...	...	26
				<hr/> 113 <hr/>

**MEANS OF PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

The same as before.

The Schools in Farcet and Orton Longueville were closed for a few weeks to prevent Measles from increasing.

**WATER SUPPLY.**

The chief feature under this heading is the extension of the Braceborough water to Orton Longueville. The work is now accomplished, and will no doubt prove a great blessing to all who may take advantage of a pure and wholesome water.

The supply in other parts of the District is about the same as in past years.



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Much the same as last year.

Of course a great number of houses have been connected with your main sewer in Woodstone Rural, Fletton Rural, and Stanground. These connections have caused of necessity a considerable amount of interference with the roads, and the wet Spring and Summer rendered them somewhat unpleasant to pedestrians.

St. Margaret's Road is now connected with the main drain.

Efforts are being made to improve the drainage of Yaxley. It should not be an expensive or difficult matter to direct the flow of the surface water so that it should flush the main drains in its passage to the river.

There has been little or no change elsewhere.

Alterations have been and are being made in Holme, which should greatly improve the sanitary condition of the village.

The present proprietor of Holmewood and the Holmewood Estates takes a praiseworthy interest in the sanitation of the village, and is constructing, at his own cost, Sewerage works to deal with the Sewage of Holme as well as Holmewood House.

## REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The scavengers throughout the District attend to the removal of refuse as in former years. There has been no complaint concerning the refuse of our own District, but there have been many strong protests by the inhabitants of Woodstone against the depositing of

refuse from Peterborough into the gravel pits near Rowe's Lane and Oundle Road. At the request of your Board, this depositing has been discontinued.

### **POLLUTION OF STREAMS AND WATERCOURSES.**

With the exception of Love Lane Brook and Stanground Lode, no alteration has taken place. The sanitary condition of these streams has been greatly improved since the opening of the Sewage Works. Stanground Lode could be further improved by clearing it from the old pots and pans and other rubbish accumulated in former years.

### **HOUSE SANITATION.**

There is a decided improvement in House Sanitation throughout the whole District.

There seems to be a wholesome emulation among the workmen's wives to keep their houses clean and tidy.

A plentiful supply of good water, within easy reach, is of the greatest help towards the consummation of this desirable condition.

During the last decade there has been a gradual improvement in the sanitary condition of workmen's houses all over your District, but more decided in the localities where new houses have been built. The rooms are larger, with higher roofs, wood floors, fire grates with cooking ranges and less smoke. Also a good water supply, good drainage for sewage, and, as a rule, privies to every house.

The bake-houses were inspected, and, with one exception, were in a fairly good sanitary condition, and that exception has been improved.

## CONCLUSION.

Although the past year has been a successful one from a health point of view, there are still black spots on the health history of the year. Pneumonia has claimed 14 victims, Bronchitis 12, Cancer 12, and Consumption 9. The two former diseases are of a curable nature, and in all probability would not be fatal were the cases seen and treated in the beginning of the disease. Consumption and Cancer, as a rule, are almost hopeless when Medical or Surgical advice is obtained.

No doubt the "open air" treatment of recent years has been attended with considerable success, so far as Consumption is concerned.

Cancer can also be dealt with successfully if got at early, and if not deeply seated in the body.

In my opinion the best way of dealing with these diseases is to regard them as infectious, and treat them accordingly. All cases of Consumption and of malignant disease should be, as far as possible, isolated from other members of the family. The patients, as well as the nurses, should be requested to destroy all discharges and secretions by burning. Handkerchiefs, napkins, wearing apparel, and bed clothes should be thoroughly disinfected or destroyed.

The population of your District has increased greatly during the past decade, and, if we can judge from the number of new houses in course of erection, a further increase is to be expected in the near future.

In order to be abreast of the times, and alive to the requirements of a large and increasing community, the question of a Cottage Hospital will require your early consideration.



Appended is the Report of your Sanitary Inspector for the period between the 28th February, 1902, and the 13th February, 1903.

The work done by him, as stated in his Report, ought to be satisfactory evidence that the duties of his post are being strictly and ably carried out.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN A. ROBERTSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Woodstone, Peterborough,*

*13th February, 1903.*



**TABLE I.**  
**Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.**  
*For Whole District.*

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
1898	10,000	286	28·6	35	122·3	111	11·1	111	11·1
1899	11,000	312	28·3	48	153·5	156	14·2	156	14·2
1900	11,000	329	29·9	40	121·5	126	11·5	126	11·5
1901	10,164	320	31·4	47	146·8	135	13·2	135	13·2
Averages for years 1898-1901 }	10,541	311·75	29·5	42·5	136·25	132	12·5	132	12·5
1902	10,164	316	31·09	35	110·7	113	11·1	113	11·1

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 32,491.

Total population at all ages, 10,164.

No. of Inhabited Houses, 2,279.

Average number of persons per house, 4·4.

**TABLE II.**  
**Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.**

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	FLETTON.				YAXLEY.				STILTON.			
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1902	5,564	181	59	19	2,755	88	28	8	1,845	47	26	8



TABLE III.

## NORMAN CROSS RURAL DISTRICT.

*Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	FLETON.	YAXLEY.	STILTON.
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	10	...	8	2
Erysipelas .....	10	6	3	1
Scarlet Fever.....	22	16	2	4
Enteric Fever .....	1	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever .....	1	1	...	...
TOTALS .....	44	23	14	7

TABLE IV.

## Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.

*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1902.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN ALL LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).		
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 & under 5.	5 & under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 65.	65 & upwards.	FLETON.	YAXLEY.	STILTON.
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup .....	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Enteritis .....	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Phthisis .....	9	1	...	...	2	5	1	5	4	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	12	...	...	...	...	5	7	10	...	2
Bronchitis .....	14	7	2	...	...	1	4	7	1	6
Pneumonia .....	12	6	4	1	...	1	...	5	4	3
Alcoholism .....	4	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver .....										
Premature Birth.....	17	17	...	...	...	...	...	9	4	4
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition.....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Heart Diseases .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	...
Accidents.....	4	...	...	...	1	3	...	2	1	1
Suicides .....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Nervous Diseases .....	8	1	...	1	...	2	4	3	3	2
Senile Decay .....	10	...	...	...	...	...	10	5	3	2
All other Causes.....	11	1	...	...	...	7	3	6	2	3
ALL CAUSES .....	113	35	10	2	3	30	33	59	28	26

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

STANGROUND,

FEBRUARY 13th, 1903.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to hand you a summary of the Sanitary work done by me in your District between February 28th, 1902, and February 13th, 1903.

Notices served under Public Health Act .....	67
Nuisances from accumulations of manure .....	5
Nuisances from offensive privies, &c... ..	41
Nuisances from offensive drains, &c. ....	15
Nuisances from animals .. ..	3
Nuisances from overcrowding .....	2
Public Health Water Act .....	2
Other Nuisances .....	3

The number of houses connected to the sewers in the parishes of Fletton, Stanground, and Woodstone, during the above period, was 223.

The number of notices served on owners to connect was 58.

The sewer in Queen's Road, Fletton, has been connected to the main sewer, and the nuisance abated.

The whole of the sewers in these parishes are working satisfactorily, but the question of ventilation will need attention. I have reported separately on this matter.

The number of plans deposited under the bye-laws was 43, and there was proceedings for contravention in one instance.

The number of closet pans emptied in the parish of Fletton was 6,208, at a cost of £64 13s. 4d.

The cost of removing ashes in this parish was £17 13s. 3d.

The clearing of the cesspools cost £1 10s. 0d.

The pond at Folksworth, from which the water for domestic purposes in this parish is obtained, has been enlarged, and there is little fear of the supply being again exhausted.

The outfalls of the sewers in the parish of Yaxley have been altered, and the nuisance abated.

Twenty-seven cases of infectious disease have been notified to me by the Medical Officer of Health, and have received my attention.

At present little has been done under the Factory and Workshops' Act, 1901.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. WHITTAKER.

